

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 27

BY SENATORS ADLEY, ALARIO, ALLAIN, AMEDEE, APPEL, BROOME, BROWN, BUFFINGTON, CHABERT, CLAITOR, CORTEZ, CROWE, DONAHUE, DORSEY-COLOMB, ERDEY, GALLOT, GUILLORY, HEITMEIER, JOHNS, KOSTELKA, LAFLEUR, LONG, MARTINY, MILLS, MORRELL, MORRISH, MURRAY, NEVERS, PEACOCK, PERRY, PETERSON, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD AND WHITE

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of United States Marine Corps Corporal Matthew T. Richard in combat in Operation Enduring Freedom.

WHEREAS, Corporal Matthew T. Richard was a native of Iota and a 2008 graduate of Iota High School where he was a well-respected student by his teachers for his academic abilities and well known by his fellow students for his athletic prowess on the football field; and

WHEREAS, Corporal Richard was an avid outdoorsman, and fishing and duck hunting were two of his favorite pastimes, along with hanging out with his buddies and dreaming of serving his country in the military; and

WHEREAS, Matthew Richard would enlist in the United States Marine Corps immediately after his high school graduation and one week before reaching his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday; and

WHEREAS, Matthew used his outstanding physical skills to excel during his basic combat training, and he knew by the end of that intense training that he was a Marine and ready for the challenges the Corps would present; and

WHEREAS, Corporal Richard, after boot camp, would soon receive his orders assigning him to Golf Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 8<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment, 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Division at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Corporal Matthew Richard, along with his fellow Marines in Golf Company, would be deployed to fight in the war on terror for two tours of duty, distinguishing himself with his dedication to service; and

WHEREAS, while Corporal Richard knew the dangers of serving in his country's Marine Corps, he performed his duties with great determination and bravery and the Marines in his company knew they could count on him when things got tough; and

WHEREAS, the hot, dusty streets of Marjah in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, were well known for being a stronghold of enemy forces and a flashpoint for deadly combat encounters; and

WHEREAS, Corporal Matthew Richard was involved in combat operations on June 9, 2011, with his unit when it was engaged by enemy forces, and the twenty-one-year-old Marine was mortally wounded; and

WHEREAS, Corporal Matthew Richard had been recognized by his commanders as an outstanding Marine with great leadership qualities and honored several times for his commitment, bravery and dedication to his country.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend its deepest and most profound condolences to the family of Corporal Matthew Richard for their immeasurable grief and his tremendous sacrifice in the service of his country.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Alicia and Jeff Richard, the parents of Matthew.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE